

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A mask assembly for application of non-invasive positive pressure ventilation ~~Non-Invasive Positive Pressure Ventilation~~ to a patient, comprising:

a frame including a main body ~~having~~ including at least one aperture configured to receive a supply of breathable gas under pressure, said frame including at least one selected frame portion provided to the main body, said at least one selected frame portion being adjustable relative to the main body; and

a cushion provided to the frame, the cushion being structured to provide an interface with the patient,

wherein said at least one selected frame portion is engaged with the cushion so that the cushion is adjustable in accordance with a position of said at least one selected frame portion relative to the main body, and

said cushion, upon application of positive pressure, applying a force to the patient, said force being adjustable in accordance with 1) the position of said at least one ~~the~~ selected frame portion relative to the main body for a given value of said positive pressure; and/or 2) variations in the positive pressure.

20. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 19, further comprising at least one headgear connector portion provided to ~~the~~ said at least one selected frame portion, said at least one selected frame portion adapted to be ~~being~~ movable in accordance with change in headgear strap tension to thereby adjust the force applied to the sides of the patient's nose and/or face in use.

21. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein the frame includes an adjustment mechanism including at least one and preferably a plurality of spaced knobs operable to change the relative positioning between the main body and the at least one selected frame portion.

22. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein the at least one selected frame portion includes a flexible member supporting the cushion.

23. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein the main body and the at least one selected frame portion are provided as two separate parts that are coupled to one another.

24. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein the main body and the at least one selected frame portion are moveable by a camming mechanism.

25. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein the cushion includes at least one inflatable element therein, adapted to adjust an effective stiffness and/or an effective fit with the patient.

26. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 25, wherein the at least one inflatable element is provided to selectively adjust a size of ~~the~~ a nasal bridge region of the cushion.

27. (Currently Amended) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein the at least one selected frame portion includes each lateral side of the frame which is made of a flexible material.

28. (Original) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein the cushion includes at least one element providing for multiple stiffening rates of the cushion upon changes in the force.

Claims 29-33 (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A mask assembly for application of non-invasive positive pressure ventilation to a patient, comprising:

a frame including a main body having ~~including~~ at least one aperture configured to receive a supply of breathable gas under pressure, said frame including a selected frame portion provided to the main body, said selected frame portion being adjustable relative to the main body; and

a cushion provided to the frame, the cushion being structured to provide an interface with the patient,

wherein the selected frame portion is engaged with the cushion so that the cushion is adjustable in accordance with ~~the~~ a position of the selected frame portion relative to the main body, and

wherein the selected frame portion includes each lateral side of the frame, and the selected frame portion is bendable to cause each lateral side of the frame to push against sides of the cushion.

35. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 34, wherein the selected frame portion includes a flexible member supporting the cushion.

36. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 35, wherein the main body is relatively stiffer than the flexible member.

37. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 34, wherein the main body and the selected frame portion are provided as two separate parts that are coupled to one another.

38. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 34, wherein the selected frame portion includes each lateral side of the frame which is made of a flexible material.

39. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 34, wherein the selected frame portion is bendable about a longitudinal axis of the frame.

40. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 34, wherein the selected frame portion includes side wing portions which are movable relative to the main body to adjust the sides of the cushion.

41. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 40, wherein each of the side wing portions are adjustable into a plurality of positions.

42. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly of claim 34, wherein the cushion is adapted to provide a seal with the patient's nose.

43. (New) The mask assembly of claim 19, wherein said at least one selected frame portion is adjustable to deform the cushion to adjust the fit and/or seal of the cushion on the patient's face.

44. (New) The mask assembly of claim 34, wherein the selected frame portion is adjustable to deform the cushion to adjust the fit and/or seal of the cushion on the patient's face.